

Hi Fans!

The long awaited news is now confirmed. The new album "A Kind Of Hush" will be released June 11. Karen's lilting voice accompanying Richard's beautiful arrangements is super-terrific. Every song is a winner, but my favorite is "I Need To Be In Love" composed by Richard and John Bettis, and was released as a single May 21. The lovely birthday cards you sent for Karen and Mom Carpenter are sincerely appreciated. They send their combined thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity. K & R worked on the new album 'til 3.00 a.m. the morning of their departure for Japan. Ray Gerhardt their sound engineer, had put in long hours with K & R, and was looking forward to some relaxation while they were on tour. He was also eager to fully acquaint himself with the new Jaguar K & R had presented him in appreciation of the super engineering work he had done on their albums. Ray was twice nominated for grammys, on both occasions for his engineering expertise on Carpenter albums. His relaxation dreams were wiped out when last minute plans included him in the trip to Japan to help Gary with Sound equalization. A passport was rushed through, and Ray found himself transported from the studio's Mix-3 to an American Airlines 747. The tour was successful and pleasant, including the one with two mishaps that added more humor to the show and delighted the audience. At concert opening, slides are projected on to a screen showing K & R as infants, toddlers and teen-agers, up to the present time, while Karen stands offstage singing "We've Only Just Begun". At one concert, one of the slides was erroneously shown upside down, and when K saw it, she cracked up and laughed so hard that she was unable to complete the song, and the audience joined in the laughter. Later, at the same performance when she was seated at the drums, the snare drum stand broke and the snare slid kerplunk right into her lap, but the trooper that she is, kept on drumming without missing a beat. Winter weather was reluctant to leave Japan, and during their stay the weather was extremely cold with 98% rain and a little snow. The huge concert halls where they performed were almost impossible to heat, so electric heaters were set on stage facing the group, in spite of which they were chilled to the bone, but hot baths and massages before retiring prevented them catching colds. Heaters in their dressing rooms kept them comfortable and warm, but outside the dressing rooms they could see their breath, a rare sight for Southern Californians! Always on the alert for ideas or changes to improve their show, they video-taped one of their concerts for later viewing. The President and Vice-President of the Sony Corporation invited them to tour the building where they were shown the latest concepts of the Sound Industry, and presented them with beautiful cassette recorders. They also toured the National Corporation where Panasonic is manufactured, and Richard was very impressed with the new Tectrics Hi Fi equipment. There he received a very nice turntable. He was also the recipient of a super Panasonic receiver with AM/FM, Marine band, short wave, etc; from Tats, their Japanese promoter. It was a cold, windy, rainy day when K & R visited one of the Japanese Temples, and respecting Japanese custom, they removed their shoes before entering. The icy cold floor almost froze their feet, so the visit was brief. From there they drove to the Ashiaya Steak House where they enjoyed an excellent meal. Much of their spare time was spent relaxing in their hotel suites watching American TV programs. Mom and Dad had video-taped their favorite programs that they were missing each night while working on the new album. R had a special case custom built on rollers, large enough to house their video-cassette player and the hundred plus tapes while in transit, so American TV rolled right along with them. Four more Gold Records were presented to K & R by King Record Co.; "Live In Japan", "Horizon", "Only Yesterday" and "Mr Postman" all earned them each a Gold Record, bringing the total of Japanese Awards to 18. "A Kind Of Hush" will no doubt earn them another Japanese "Gold" as it was #1 in Japan while they were on tour there. It was being played wherever they went, even in the watch shop where they were browsing. Richard "digs" watches as he does cars! He purchased an extremely attractive Seiko L.C; the very latest in digital watches. It's called a Cronograph and

features a quartz crystal, AM & PM indicator as well as date, hour & seconds, plus a push button that makes it a stop watch. The whole group thought it was A-OK, and each purchased a similar one before leaving Japan. Fans had showered them with gifts at every concert, presenting them to K from below stage while she was simultaneously singing, holding the mike and bending forward to shake hands and accept gifts. Incredible as it may seem, there were no duplications among the hundreds of items they brought home, though 2 wooden crates each 4ft.square x 4ft.high were built to transport them. At concert's end, fans rushed the stage causing near riots. Excitement was so tremendous some nights that K & R were not allowed to shake hands for fear of being accidentally pulled off stage and getting injured. Though the language barrier was not a major problem, there were times they experienced difficulty ordering meals. The following is a quote from notes K kept to help me in writing the newsletter; "It's now Thursday morn, I've just had breakfast. I ordered 3 scrambled eggs and I got 3 ORDERS of scrambled eggs! I'm very full." Karen learned to speak a little Japanese (which is not the easiest language to learn) to enable her to thank fans for their concern while she was ill, and let them know she is fine now. She spoke it fluently, even changing the dialect from city to city. After K & R returned home, mail poured in from Japan, praising and thanking them for speaking to them in their language. Their last day was a time racer which almost resulted in missing the flight home, but for the cooperation and swift action of Shorty, one of the Japanese road managers. A nine hour flight returned them to Los Angeles with fond memories and a tour well done. We held up the newsletter to wait for final info on TENTATIVE TOUR SCHEDULE now available as follows:

May	29	CALIF; Fresno-Selland Arena
June	10-23	NEVADA, Lake Tahoe-Sahara
July	1--7	NEVADA, Las Vegas-Riviera
	27	CANADA, Edmonton-Coliseum
	29	MINNEAPOLIS, Northrup-Auditorium
	30	WISCONSIN, Madison-Dane County Auditorium
	31	ILLINOIS, Chicago-Arie Crown Theater
Aug.	1	" " "
	2	INDIANA, Indianapolis-Convention Center
	3	INDIANA, Fort Wayne-Coliseum
	4	MICHIGAN, Kalamazoo-Wings Stadium
5, 6 & 7		CANADA, Toronto-O'Keefe Center
	8	NEW YORK, Binghamton-Broome County Memorial Auditorium
	9	MASSACHUSETTS, Fitchburg-Wallace Civic Center (<u>TENTATIVE</u>)
	10	NEW YORK, Saratoga Springs-Performing Arts Center
	12&13	MICHIGAN, Pine Knob-Pine Knob Theater
Aug. 26-Sep 8.		NEVADA, Las Vegas-Riviera

Please be sure to confirm these dates with your ticket outlets in advance to avoid last minute disappointment. A reminder! We still have a supply of stationery, memo pads, pens, pencils, book covers, desk organizers, needlepoint kits, posters etc; Collectors please note! New program books are now being designed, so old programs will no longer be available when present supply is depleted. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND; with the exception of posters, music books & programs, Carpenter keepsakes are available ONLY to fanclub members. They are not sold in stores, therefore you will be the only people possessing them when collectors search for Carpenter Memorabilia a few years hence. The sale of these items helps to absorb the enormous expence of producing your newsletter. All members of the Carpenter "outfit" wish you all a Happy Summer. In response to numerous enquiries, we regret to inform you, the Dinah Shore "Tribute to the Carpenters" show, has been cancelled indefinately, but any changes will be announced in future newsletter. That's all for now. Will rap later.